the national exchequer and the O.N.G.C. has violated the practice of transparency in awarding the above contract;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective action/steps taken by the Government to prevent such misuse ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) ONGC awarded the contract to M/s Marubeni Corporation, Japan, which was the lowest evaluated offer, as per bid evaluation criteria based on freight rates obtained from Transchart before price bid opening.

(c) to (e) the contract was evaluated as per the bid evaluation criteria which was known to all the bidders in advance and therefore the question of any additional burden or lack of transparency does not arise.

[Translation]

Diesel/Petrol Pumps

2963. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) The total number of Diesel/Petrol Pumps running in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to set up new Petrol/Diesel Pumps in the State;

(c) if so, the time by which the new Petrol/Diesel Pumps are likely to be set up; and

(d) the criteria adopted for allotment of Petrol/Diesel Pumps ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) As on 1.4.1997, 1638 retail outlets were in operation in Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing Plans, 34 new retail outlet dealerships have been included in the draft RO Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Maharashtra. It generally takes about 6-12 months to commission the dealership after issue of Letter of Intent.

(d) For allotment of retail outlet dealerships, candidates have to meet the eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualification, income residence and multiple dealership norms.

[English]

Tariffs for Domestic Hotel Industry

2964. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading tour operators and travel agents have presented a petition to the Government seeking initiation of administration tariffs for the domestic hotel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, tour operators and travel agents associations have made representations for the abolition of dual tariffs being charged by some of the hotels. The Government is seized of the issue and have taken up the same with the concerned authorities.

FDI in Private Sector

2965. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Panel set up to woo FDI in transport sector" appearing in the Financial Express dated July 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the details regarding terms of reference of the committee and its composition and task asigned and the likely period for submission of report to the Government; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Ministry has not constituted any such Committee.

Performance of Navodaya Vidyalayas

2966. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any attempt at formally assessing the functioning of the scheme of Navodaya Vidyalaya since its inception;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and